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KINGTON URBAN DISTRICT

Herefordshire



Joint
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and of the
Public Health Inspector
for the year 1959

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(As at 31st December 1959)

J.E.A. Deacon	Chairman of the Council Chairman of the General Purposes Committee Chairman of the Water Supplies Committee
A.W.C. Tedstone	Vice-Chairman of the Council Chairman of the Housing Committee
T.E. Bowdler	Chairman of the Finance Committee
P.H. Briggs	
W.W.E. Cole	
W.L. Fowler	
Mrs. I. Jones	
W.J. Lloyd	
T.J. Morgan	
W.E. Philpotts	
R.H.T. Potter	Chairman of the Industrial Committee
E.R. Smith	Chairman of the Housing Sites Committee
D.E. Thomas	
E.C. Thomas	Chairman of the Recreation Ground Committee
E. Watkins	

Clerk and Chief Financial Officer .. R.A. Ingram

G.D.K. NEEDHAM, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health,
Westfield Walk,
LEOMINSTER.

(Telephone: Leominster 2049)

L. ALLEN, M.A.P.H.I.,
Public Health Inspector,
2, Mill Street,
KINGTON.

(Telephone: Kington 202)

M.A. CLEEVELY, C.R.S.H.,
Additional Public Health Inspector.

(Part-time appointment with
Weobley R.D.C. and New Radnor R.D.C.)



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To the Chairman and Members of the Kington Urban
District Council

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I herewith present my Annual Report for the year 1959, with the following comments.

Statistical Section

The vital statistics show little variation from the England and Wales average, with the exception of the death rate, which was high. It will be seen that the death rates from heart disease and chest diseases were well above the average of previous years in 1959, and can be compared with 1955, when again the death rate was high.

Water Supply

I am glad to say that, apart from mechanical failures, the augmented supply gave satisfaction in 1959 in spite of the abnormally fine dry weather throughout the summer; this has remedied one of Kington's biggest problems.

Drainage and Sewerage

The pious hope expressed last year is now a solid, or rather, hollow fact. The new sewer is laid and the new disposal works well advanced in construction.

Refuse Disposal

This is always a problem and I think that Mr. Allen's suggestion that it might be possible to use the old sewage works would bear investigation.

In conclusion I wish to thank Mr. Allen for completing much of this report, and for his help during the past year, and Mr. Preece in my office in Leominster for providing the statistical section.

G.D.K. NEEDHAM

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND VITAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	857
Estimated mid-year home population	1,840
Average number of persons per acre	2.2
Number of inhabited houses.. .. .	623
Average number of inhabited houses per acre	0.7
Average number of persons per house	3.0
Rateable Value	£19,449
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.. .. .	274

LIVE AND STILL BIRTHSLive Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	15	12	27
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>15</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>27</u>

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:-

	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955
Kington U.D. (Crude)	14.7	12.4	18.5	18.5	27.0
" " (Adjusted)	15.9	13.4	19.9	20.1	29.4
England and Wales	16.5	16.4	16.1	15.7	15.0

Illegitimate Live Births

Per cent of total live births:

Kington U.D.	..	Nil
England and Wales	..	5.1

Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births:

	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955
Kington U.D. .. Nil	80.0	Nil	Nil	Nil	
England and Wales .. 21.0	21.6	22.4	23.0	23.1	

Total Live and Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	15	12	27
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>15</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>27</u>

INFANT DEATH RATESNeonatal MortalityDeaths of Infants under 4 weeks old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:

Kington U.D.	..	Nil
England and Wales	..	15.8

Perinatal MortalityStill Births and Deaths of Infants under 1 week old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Kington U.D.	..	Nil
England and Wales	..	34.2

Infant MortalityDeaths of Infants under one year of age
(including those under 4 weeks)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	-	1	1

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 related live births:

		1959	1958	1957	1956	1955
Kington U.D. ..	{ Total	37.0	86.9	29.4	Nil	60.0
	{ Legitimate	37.0	95.2	29.4	Nil	40.8
	{ Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1000.0
England and Wales	{ Total	22.2	22.5	23.1	23.7	24.9
	{ Legitimate	*	22.3	22.8	23.5	24.6
	{ Illegitimate	*	27.8	30.0	28.7	31.7

* figures not yet available

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Total number of Maternal Deaths .. Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Kington U.D. .. Nil
 England and Wales .. 0.32

DEATHS

	Males	Females	Total
Total number of deaths from all causes:	18	17	35
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:			
	1959	1958	1957 1956 1955
Kington U.D. (Crude) ..	19.0	16.2	14.7 13.0 21.6
" " (Adjusted) ..	13.5	12.3	11.4 10.1 15.5
England and Wales ..	11.6	11.7	11.5 11.7 11.7

Cancer

	Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Malignant Disease:	2	5	7
Cancer Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:			
	1959	1958	1957 1956 1955
Kington U.D. ..	3.80	2.22	4.35 2.17 2.22
England and Wales ..	2.14	2.12	2.09 2.08 2.10

Cardio-Vascular Disease

	Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Cardio-Vascular Disease:	8	10	18
Cardio-Vascular Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:			
	1959	1958	1957 1956 1955
Kington U.D. ..	9.78	5.40	6.52 5.98 10.27
England and Wales ..	5.88	6.07	5.84 6.00 5.99

Respiratory Disease (excluding Tuberculosis)

	Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Respiratory Disease:	5	1	6
Respiratory Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:			
	1959	1958	1957 1956 1955
Kington U.D. ..	3.26	3.78	1.63 2.17 3.78
England and Wales ..	1.53	1.37	1.38 1.35 1.32

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

					Males	Females	Total
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..			-	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..			-	1	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms					2	1	3
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	..		-	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	..				2	5	7
Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..		3	1	4
Other heart disease	..	..	..	..	3	4	7
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	3	-	3
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
Other diseases of respiratory system					1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..			1	-	1
Congenital malformations	..	..	..		-	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases					2	-	2
TOTAL					18	17	35

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

No action needed to be taken under this section during the year.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE - KINGTON U.D.

Disease	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	1	-
Measles	43	-	2	65	5
Scarlet Fever	-	1	11	-	6
Dysentery	-	-	6	-	-
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	1	-	1	1	-
Non-Pulmonary	1	-	-	-	-

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE - NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE

Disease	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955
Whooping Cough	38	39	192	87	104
Measles	388	258	144	561	649
Scarlet Fever	46	28	71	42	33
Erysipelas	4	2	7	8	6
Acute Pneumonia	33	14	49	20	20
Dysentery	3	16	38	7	6
Food Poisoning	3	5	10	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	1
Paratyphoid Fever	-	1	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	2	3	2	3
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	13	7	33	19	28
Non-Pulmonary	2	3	4	6	9
Acute Poliomyelitis:					
Paralytic	-	-	12	1	2
Non-Paralytic	-	-	14	-	3
Malaria (contracted abroad)	-	-	-	-	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE
DURING THE YEAR 1959.

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Whooping Cough	5	1	7	6	2	-	1	3	1	1	3	8	38
Measles	82	117	60	30	33	42	20	3	-	-	1	-	388
Scarlet Fever	-	8	2	2	5	9	4	3	-	3	4	6	46
Erysipelas	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	4
Acute Pneumonia	2	6	15	5	-	2	-	1	-	-	1	1	33
Dysentery	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3
Food Poisoning	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	3
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	-	1	1	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	13
Tuberculosis Non-Pulmonary	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2

COMPARATIVE CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES
NOTIFIED DURING 1959

Disease	North Here- fordshire	England & Wales
Whooping Cough	0.99	0.73
Measles	10.16	11.88
Scarlet Fever	1.20	1.05
Erysipelas	0.10	0.07
Acute Pneumonia	0.97	0.59
Dysentery	0.08	0.78
Food Poisoning	0.08	0.22
Tuberculosis:		
Pulmonary	0.34	0.54
Non-Pulmonary	0.05	0.06

TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Number on Register at 31st December, 1958.	8	6	2	2
New cases notified	1	-	-	1
Recovered	1	1	-	-
Number on Register at 31st December, 1959	8	5	2	3

Year	New Notifications	Total cases on Register	Deaths	Recoveries
1955	-	18	-	3
1956	1	22	1	1
1957	1	22	-	-
1958	-	18	-	2
1959	2	18	-	2

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946, Section 26Vaccination and Immunisation

Vaccination and Immunisation are a County Council responsibility, and the figures given below have been kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health.

Numbers of children in the district who were immunised during the year:

Immunisation against	Age of child			Total	Reinforcing Injections
	Under 1	1-4	5-14		
Diphtheria	11	3	3	17	43
Whooping Cough	13	2	-	15	-

Numbers of children in the district who were vaccinated against Smallpox during the year:

Vaccination against Smallpox	Age of child					Total	Revaccinations
	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2-4	5-14	15 & over		
	13	-	-	5	-	18	2

PUBLIC HEALTH CIRCUMSTANCES AND INSPECTIONSWATER SUPPLY

Samples of water were taken from public supply both before and after chlorination. These samples were all found to be satisfactory, with the exception of one sample taken in the early part of October. This sample coincided with the new electric pump being put into use. A "follow up" sample taken immediately afterwards proved to be highly satisfactory.

In the early part of the year it was necessary for the Council to publish notices asking the public to exercise care in the use of water, owing to a fall in the amount of water coming from the spring at Crooked Well. At the same time, the Council contacted the Ministry of Housing and Local Government seeking an interview to discuss their water problems, with a view to the Ministry agreeing to augmenting the supply from a borehole. The Ministry received this deputation and agreed that they were prepared to sanction the proposed borehole supply as a temporary means of supplementing the supply from the Crooked Well spring, and that chlorination of the water by reliable equipment was essential. Work on the borehole was completed, and this supply connected to the existing supply on the 21st August, 1959.

WATER SUPPLY (Continued)

An adequate supply of water for the present needs of Kington was now assured. However there were temporary shortages of water in the latter part of the year due to:-

- (1) water turbine driving pump ceasing to operate due to insufficient drive water in the river, and
- (2) failure of electric motors to "cut-in"

It will be interesting to see whether the increased consumption of water, following completion of the Council's present house building programme, the new school, and the continued improvement of existing properties, may create a further water shortage in the future.

Existing number of houses supplied with water by L.A. mains and standpipes ..	596
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Existing number of houses supplied by private undertakings ..	20
---	----

Existing number of houses supplied by wells and springs ..	5
--	---

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

In last year's annual report it was stated "that the Council's intention to commence work on the new sewage disposal works should be fulfilled during the following year," and "the new sewage scheme has become a good deal more than a pious hope."

This year not only marked the commencement of work on the sewer from Crooked Well and the new sewage disposal works, but also marked the completion of this new sewer. Progress on the disposal works has been kept well up to schedule. Undue difficulties were experienced whilst underground construction was in progress due to a high water table involving excessive pumping.

Several complaints and enquiries were received during the year arising from defects and blockages occurring in combined drains/private sewers, receiving effluent from two or more properties. It was necessary in some cases to serve informal notices before these unsatisfactory conditions were remedied.

Number of houses connected to public sewer	534
--	-----

Number of houses connected to satisfactory private disposal works ..	31
--	----

Number of houses using chemical, pail or earth closets with satisfactory disposal..	56
---	----

Number of houses using chemical, pail or earth closets with unsatisfactory disposal	Nil
---	-----

REFUSE COLLECTION

A weekly collection of household refuse for properties in the area is maintained. Business properties in the town centre have their refuse removed twice a week. A kerbside collection is operated, and carried out by direct labour.

The bulk of refuse is disposed of by incineration, but some tipping on spare ground beside the incinerator continues. The existing tip is not entirely satisfactory and should be levelled.

With the completion of the Crooked Well houses the amount of refuse to be collected will increase. With existing arrangements it is not possible to burn any more refuse, consequently more refuse will have to be disposed of by tipping.

The contact beds already used by the existing sewage works could be utilised for additional tipping, but this would have to be strictly controlled and maintained at a consolidated depth of not more than 6 feet.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The present public conveniences (male and female) are grossly inadequate for the requirements of a market town similar to Kington. This fact is also accentuated in the summertime when Kington is made a stopping place for through 'buses.

The Council should consider extending this accommodation and at the same time provide new conveniences at the other end of the town.

RODENT CONTROL

The employment of a part-time rodent operator with New Radnor R.D.C., ceased on the 31st March 1959. The Council agreed that from the 1st April all complaints of rodent infestation should be treated by one of their employees. Whilst more complaints of infestation have been received in the office, these have been dealt with and no major areas of infestation have occurred in the district.

HOUSING

Housing Survey. The additional Public Health Inspector appointed jointly with New Radnor R.D.C., and Weobley R.D.C., continued to work one month in each four month period in the district. He has now terminated his services with the Council. The completed survey showed the houses to be placed in the following categories:-

Category:	1	2	3	4	5	Total
No. of houses:	247	88	241	Nil	42	618

HOUSING (Continued)

Crooked Well Housing Site. Work started on the erection of Council houses on this site. These houses will be used to rehouse an approved list of tenants from Hergest Camp and people living in sub-standard houses in the district.

Private Dwellings. The erection of three bungalows and one house was completed during the year.

Improvement Grants - Discretionary. Five applications were received for discretionary improvement grants and all were approved. Below are figures comparing the number of improvement grants with those for the previous two years:-

	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>
No. of grants approved	1	3	5
Amount of grants	£400	£500	£960

Improvement Grants - Standard. Application was received for two standard grants, and one of these was approved.

Slum Clearance. An undertaking not to re-let was accepted in respect of two dwellinghouses which were unfit for human habitation.

Alterations and improvements have been carried out to other sub-standard properties (mainly in Category 3 houses) so as to maintain and improve their standard and fitness.

FOOD PREMISES AND FOOD INSPECTION

These premises are summarised as follows:-

Slaughterhouses	2
Butchers Shops	4
Bakehouses	4
Ice-Cream Premises	8
Cafes, Public Houses, Stores etc.	33
	51

Slaughterhouses. During the year two private slaughterhouses were licensed in the district. Whilst both owners intimated that they would be carrying out alterations and improvements so as to comply with new legislation, one owner did not apply for renewal of his slaughterhouse licence.

FOOD PREMISES AND FOOD INSPECTION (Continued)Meat Inspection and Condemnation:-

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	60	77	1	458	195
<u>All diseases except Tuber- culosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	Nil	1	Nil	6	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	8	16	Nil	6	Nil
<u>Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</u>					
Whole carcasses or part condemned ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

The cause of condemnation of carcase of one beast was due to pleurisy, and the 6 sheep to general emaciation, extensive and severe bruising and malnutrition. The cause of condemnation of parts and organs of carcase was mainly due to liver fluke.

During the year 160 lb. of codfish was condemned due to infection with worms (*filaria bicolor*) and 20 lb. of rock salmon due to decomposition. Both of these items had been delivered to the Schools Central Kitchen.

A miscellaneous collection of tinned and other foodstuffs was examined and condemned.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS - FACTORIES ACTS, 1957 and 1948INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspect- ions	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sec.1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be en- forced by L.A.	10	15	1	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec.7 is enforced by L.A.	25	30	1	-

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (Continued)CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Insufficient sanitary accommodation ..	2
Provision of washing facilities ..	2
Provision of drinking water ..	1

All of these were remedied.

